

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

The Secretary opened by commenting that he wanted a few words about the present situation in Berlin. He said he felt it was very important that the Soviet and Western Commandants get together to deal with the problem of tensions in the city. He said it was necessary to go back to the building of the Wall, itself, to find the major cause for the sense of deep dismay and anger felt by both West and East Berliners. The separation of families and the splitting of the life of the city had made a deep impact. It was inevitable that the Wall would contribute to tensions in Berlin. Following the building of the Wall there had been a number of incidents mostly the result of East Berliners trying to get to West Berlin. There had been shootings, violence, and bullets flying into West Berlin endangering lives, all of which had created a sense of dismay and outrage. Last Friday when the East Berlin police shot an 18 year old boy and left him lying for one hour with no assistance, a wave of revulsion and horror had gone around the world. It is hard to understand how anyone could be so callous and we cannot believe that this represents the policy or the attitude of the Soviet Government. On more than one occasion we have urged that the four Commandants should meet to consult on the way to handle problems arising in Berlin. We think such a meeting could improve the situation. Neither the Soviets nor we want these problems put in the hands of the Germans on both sides of the wall, leaving it to them to stir up a situation reaching beyond Berlin with which the Great Powers, rather than the Germans, must deal. During the last two days the Soviet Deputy Commandant has come without appointment to ask to see General Watson. General Watson has asked the Acting Soviet Commandant to meet to consult on recent events. We will take the necessary steps to maintain law and order in West Berlin, but this can be difficult in a city of 2-1/4 million people. The demonstrations since the incident on Friday



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have created problems, but there are matters where the quadripartite cooperation is required because one thing leads to another. The US, French, and British Commandants have urged a meeting with the Soviet Commandant to reduce tensions and ensure law and order. The Secretary said he would urge once again that this matter be reconsidered so that the Soviet Commandant could meet with his Western counterparts. He hoped very much that the Ambassador would send the President's and his genuine urging that the Commandant get together to handle these problems in a peaceful fashion.

Ambassador Dobrynin said the only information he had was from the Western press, but it seemed that there had been stoning of Soviet soldiers and buses. This is really a matter of great concern. He would report what the Secretary had said.

The Secretary said that there was a direct connection between the killing of the 18 year old boy on Friday and the stones thrown at both Soviet and American soldiers. He noted that for a time the Soviets had refused an escort for their buses.

Ambassador Dobrynin said there was no change in the position of the Soviet Government, but he would report what the Secretary had said.

The Secretary said he wished to underline the importance of the Soviet Government's permitting the East German regime to carry out incidents which caused tension. He said one could not logically create tension in Berlin and then complain that the city was a source of tension.

Ambassador Dobrynin said that the Secretary knew the Soviet arguments, and there was no need to repeat them.

The Secretary and Ambassador Dobrynin agreed that they would say to the press that they had had an exchange of views on the current situation in Berlin.

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have created problems, but there are difficulties which would permit cooperation if required because we think Khrushchev is sincere. The US, French, and British Communists have urged a meeting with the Soviet Government to reduce tensions and ensure law and order. The Secretary said he would urge Gruenauer that this meeting be postponed so that the Soviet Government could meet with the Western governments. He said very much that the American Ambassador and the French Ambassador had been urging the Communists not because he thinks their position is a good position.

The Ambassador said the only communication he had was from the German press, but it was not clear who had been shooting at Soviet soldiers and bases. This is really a matter of Soviet concern. He would report what the Secretary had said.

The Secretary said that there was a direct connection between the killing of the 16 year old boy on Friday and the stones thrown at both Soviet and American soldiers. He noted that for a time the Soviets had refused an escort for their buses.

Ambassador Dobrynin said there was no change in the position of the Soviet Government, but he would report what the Secretary had said.

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